

## SB 1090 – An Act Concerning Gaming

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Re: Senate Bill 1090 (An Act Concerning Gaming)

I am **opposed** to the state granting permission for the opening of new casinos along the northern corridor of I-91.

The town of Enfield, in collaboration with surrounding towns, should be left to decide the issue of new casinos in our communities without interference from the state, if so decided by our communities.

As it is widely discussed within the state House and Senate, revenues from casinos are dropping and new casinos are being planned in neighboring states. Adding more supply to an already bloated supply chain will not generate enough new revenue to off-set the soft costs associated with gambling and casinos, such as gambling addiction services and additional stress on our transportation infrastructure.

Furthermore, we will face the real probability that the gaming market will reach a point of saturation with regards to casinos. This will likely result in closures and vacant facilities.

Finally, I would ask members of the House and Senate to reflect on what is fundamentally being considered with this bill, which along with other legislation is cause for concern. Our state continues to face serious budget challenges. Sharpening our pencils on the spend-side of the ledger has not received enough serious attention. The concern is where our state elected representatives turn to for solutions: Gambling, alcohol and marijuana.

We have increased access to alcohol for revenue, knowing that many people struggle with alcoholism. We then turned to marijuana as another revenue source knowing that many in our state struggle with substance abuse and, although that may have been marketed as other than a revenue source, it being a source of revenue was an important factor. Now, today, we are looking at expanding access to gambling with full knowledge that people have gambling addictions and that the state will be pressured to invest more for gambling addiction services.

We pontificate about the dangers of alcohol, drugs and gambling, but when it comes to addressing the lack of fiscal discipline from our representatives, we find the legislative body running towards those revenue sources, forgetting the concerns involving activity around the three and forgetting that those most impacted by alcohol, drugs and gambling, are also those that can least afford it.

I strongly advise voting against this bill and any similar bills in the future. I recommend more disciplined attention on the spending side of our state ledger.